

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-7 and 13-14 over Horii '682, and the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3-4, 6, 8-10, and 12 over Horii '682.

In the present invention, as set forth, *e.g.*, in claims 1 and 5, and their respective dependent claims, at least one first layer contains a unidirectional reinforced fiber oriented by -20° to $+20^{\circ}$ with respect to a longitudinal direction, and a second layer contains fibers oriented by 75° to 90° or -75° to -90° with respect to the longitudinal direction. When the transport member is configured as a plate-type robot hand, the second layer with the 90° fiber orientation functions as a crack-resistant layer. When the transport member is configured as a cylindrical robot arm, the second layer with the 90° fiber orientation functions as a collapse-resistant layer.

In contrast, Horii discloses use of a straight layer and an angled layer for molding, at col. 4, lines 4-58. The angled layer, as disclosed at col. 4, lines 20-42, includes fibers oriented at an angle of 30° to 60° , and -30° to -60° .

For this reason, Horii does not anticipate the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1 and 5 and their dependent claims, because Horii does not disclose every element of these claims.

The present invention, moreover, as set forth, *e.g.*, in claims 1 and 3, and their respective dependent claims, includes a first layer containing unidirectional reinforced fibers. It is well known to persons of ordinary skill in the pre-peg art, that unidirectional reinforced fibers are continuous fibers. In contrast, Horii discloses use of pitch-based carbon fibers partially in a straight layer or an angled layer. Col. 4, lines 59 - Col. 5, line 3. See also Example 4 of Horii, wherein a pre-peg with pitch-based carbon fibers XN-

80 are used partially. These pitch-based carbon fibers extend partially along the length of the first layer, not the entire length of the layer, because they are not continuous fibers. The absence of unidirectional (continuous) reinforced fibers, as recited in claims 1 and 3, results in a reduced breaking strength, and so Horii cannot obtain the benefits of the present invention, and for this reason, Horii can neither anticipate the present invention as set forth in claims 1 and 3 and their dependent claims under § 102(b) nor suggest the present invention under § 103(a).

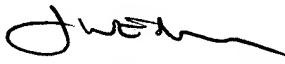
In view of these remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's reliance on Horii is misplaced, and that the claims as written are patentable over Horii. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims, withdrawal of the rejections, and a prompt Notice of Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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